

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. An appliance application loading system for a network
2 environment, comprising:
3 a client;
4 a web application server communicating with the client within the
5 network environment;
6 an appliance communicably attached with the web server within the
7 network environment; and
8 a loading mechanism provided on the network-based appliance and
9 operative to download an application to the appliance from the web application
10 server upon the occurrence of a power on/off cycle.

1 2. The appliance application loading system of claim 1 wherein
2 the loading mechanism is provided at least in part by the client.

1 3. The appliance application loading system of claim 1 wherein
2 the network-based appliance comprises an embedded device.

1 4. The appliance application loading system of claim 3
2 wherein the embedded device comprises a non-volatile storage device.

1 5. The appliance application loading system of claim 1 wherein an
2 application header and a universal resource locator (URL) are stored on the non-
3 volatile storage device, and an application body is provided on the web server at
4 a location corresponding with the URL.

1 6. The appliance application loading system of claim 5 wherein
2 the application body comprises a servlet provided on the web server.

1 7. The appliance application loading system of claim 1 wherein
2 the network-based appliance comprises an embedded device, and the loading
3 mechanism comprises a virtual machine.

1 8. The appliance application loading system of claim 1
2 wherein the network-based appliance uses the loading device to download
3 specific appliance configuration settings.

1 9. The appliance application loading system of claim 8
2 wherein the appliance comprises an embedded device, and the loading
3 mechanism comprises a program routine that copies an application program into
4 memory of the embedded device from the web server for execution.

1 10. A computer peripheral program product, comprising:
2 a web application server;
3 a network environment;
4 a computer peripheral; and
5 an application loader to load an extendable architecture application to
6 the computer peripheral so as to enable versioning, updating, and remote
7 configuration of the computer peripheral via the web application server;
8 wherein the application loader associates an application header of the
9 computer peripheral and an application body of the web application server.

1 11. The computer peripheral program product of claim 10 wherein
2 the appliance comprises a virtual machine including a web client.

1 12. The computer peripheral program product of claim 10 wherein
2 the appliance comprises a printer, and updating comprises configuring the
3 printer with a printer application comprising a printer configuration state.

1 13. The computer peripheral program product of claim 12 wherein
2 the printer configuration state comprises user settings.

1 14. The computer peripheral program product of claim 12 wherein
2 the printer configuration state comprises a servlet on the web application server
3 that transfers applications and settings to the printer in response to a power
4 cycle that automatically updates the applications and configuration settings for
5 the printer.

1 15. The computer peripheral program product of claim 10 wherein
2 the application comprises an application header including identification
3 information for the application and a uniform resource locator (URL) to the
4 application body on the web application server, and the application body
5 comprises one or more individual applications that can be loaded on the
6 appliance.

1 16. A method for updating applications to embedded devices,
2 comprising:

3 providing a network-based appliance communicably attached with a
4 web application server, the appliance having a loading mechanism to download
5 an application to the appliance from the server;

6 querying the appliance with the web server to determine presence of
7 an application; and

8 updating the appliance with the application from the server upon the
9 occurrence of a power on/off cycle.

1 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the appliance comprises an
2 embedded device, and updating comprises configuring the embedded device
3 with an application comprising an embedded device configuration state.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein the embedded device
2 configuration state comprises user settings.

1 19. The method of claim 17 wherein the embedded device
2 configuration state comprises a servlet on the web application server that is
3 transferred to the embedded device in response to a power cycle that
4 automatically updates the applications and configuration settings for the
5 embedded device.

1 20. The method of claim 16 wherein a plurality of appliances are
2 communicably attached with the web application server each with a dedicated
3 one of the loading mechanism, wherein the web application server stores
4 appliance applications and configuration settings to enable plural appliance
5 configuration setup to version and update such applications.

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